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DAY LEAD JOHNSON
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UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

WASHINGTON, JULY 22 (UPI) -- PRESIDENT JOHNSON CONFERS WITH HIS TOP MILITARY ADVISERS TODAY ON THE "NEW AND SERIOUS" DECISIONS HE SOON MUST MAKE ABOUT BOOSTING AMERICA'S COMBAT EFFORT IN THE BLOODY ANTI-COMMUNIST WAR IN VIET NAM.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SCHEDULED A WHITE HOUSE MEETING (AT 11:15 A.M. EDT) WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT S. MCNAMARA AND THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

MCNAMARA, WHO RETURNED AT DAWN YESTERDAY FROM A FIVE-DAY FACT-FINDING TRIP TO VIET NAM, BROUGHT BACK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A BIGGER U.S. TROOP COMMITMENT TO THE WAR. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL REQUIRE THE CALL-UP OF RESERVES AND A LARGER DRAFT OF MILITARY MANPOWER.

JOHNSON, MCNAMARA, SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK, HENRY CABOT LODGE, U.S. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO VIET NAM, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR WILLIAM F. RABORN JR. AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS YESTERDAY CONDUCTED WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A "THOROUGH AND PENETRATING REVIEW" OF ALL BUT THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE VIET NAM SITUATION.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY BILL D. MOYERS SAID THE REVIEW CENTERED ON SUCH ASPECTS OF THE WAR AS THE OPERATION OF THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS, THE ROLE OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY (USIA), AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS LINKED WITH THE PACIFICATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS IN SOUTH VIET NAM.

HE INDICATED THAT ANY PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS ON THE WAR MAY NOT BE MADE KNOWN IMMEDIATELY. "I AM SURE HE (JOHNSON) IS GOING TO SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ON THIS SUBJECT," MOYERS SAID.

IT WAS CONSIDERED LIKELY THAT JOHNSON WOULD CALL IN DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO DISCUSS ANY RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD CALL-UP. THE LAST SUCH MOBILIZATION WAS ORDERED BY THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY DURING THE 1961 BERLIN CRISIS.

THERE NOW ARE MORE THAN 71,000 U.S. TROOPS IN SOUTH VIET NAM AND THE NUMBER IS GOING UP IN THE FUTURE. SOME MILITARY SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THE TOTAL MIGHT REACH 180,000 BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

MCNAMARA TOLD NEWSMEN YESTERDAY THAT THE ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION HAS "DETERIORATED" SINCE HIS LAST VISIT TO VIET NAM 15 MONTHS AGO. HE SAID THE STRENGTH OF THE COMMUNIST VIET CONG GUERRILLAS "HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY" OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, BUT HE ADDED THERE ALSO WERE SIGNS OF WEAKENING IN THE RED MILITARY EFFORT.

"I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE SITUATION THERE IS NOT ALL BLACK," HE SAID.

SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID, VIET CONG CASUALTIES HAD INCREASED SHARPLY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT MONSOON OFFENSIVE; U.S. TROOP MORALE WAS "AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE" LEVEL, AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES WERE MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT TO HALT THE COMMUNISTS.

MCNAMARA SAID THERE WERE SIGNS OF "STRAIN" ON COMMUNIST VIET NAM ALSO. "THEY HAVE RUN OUT OF VOLUNTEERS ... (TO FIGHT IN THE SOUTH) AND THEY HAVE HAD TO DRAW UPON THEIR REGULAR FORCES."

HE SAID THE COMMUNISTS HAVE 165,000 GUERRILLAS AGAINST APPROXIMATELY 500,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS, AND "THIS RATIO IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE." MOST MILITARY EXPERTS AGREE THAT A RATIO OF 10 GOVERNMENT TROOPS FOR EACH GUERRILLA IS NEEDED IN SUCH A STRUGGLE.

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